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W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- ▲ Secretary-General holds meeting in Geneva with his Executive Delegate on humanitarian situation in Iraq, which, he says, continues to be "extremely serious".
- ▲ Secretary-General says he is confident that situation in Western Sahara will calm down and that hostilities will cease on 6 September.
- ▲ Secretary-General calls on creditor countries to cancel private or commercial debt owed by African countries in report on economic situation in Africa.
- ▲ Security Council sets date of election of new Justice in International Court of Justice for 5 December.
- ▲ General Assembly approves budget of \$49.5 for second United Nations Angola Verification Mission.
- ▲ Anti-Apartheid Committee criticizes Deutsche Bank plan to issue public bond for South Africa.

Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar met today in Geneva with his Executive Delegate, Sadruddin Aga Kahn, and the Executive Delegate's Special Assistant in Baghdad, Bernt Bernander, to discuss the humanitarian situation in Iraq.

Following the meeting, the Secretary-General told correspondents that he was working on a report to the Security Council on the needs of the Iraqi population, and that he was still waiting for a positive reaction from Iraq. He emphasized that the internal situation in Iraq continued to be extremely serious with regard to food and medicine requirements of the population.

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Asked about his meeting yesterday with the head of the Soviet Delegation to the 1992 Earth Summit, the Secretary-General replied that he had received a letter from Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Republic, expressing hope that the United Nations would help him in reconstructing Russia.

On the question of independence of the other republics of the Soviet Union, the Secretary-General pointed out that from the United Nations point of view, Ukraine and Beylorussia were already full members of the Organization. It was up to them to decide if they wanted to be separate countries from the Soviet Union or not.

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Following a meeting yesterday in Geneva with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), the Secretary-General told correspondents that he was confident that the situation in Western Sahara would calm down and that the cease-fire would begin as scheduled on 6 September. He further expressed confidence that the full implementation of the peace plan, which had been approved not only by the parties but also by the Security Council, would begin with the cease-fire.

Earlier in the week, the Secretary-General had expressed concern over press reports indicating military activity in Western Sahara and had called for "immediate, determined and constructive action in full cooperation with the parties."

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The Secretary-General has called on creditor countries to cancel all debts owed by African countries to enable that continent to fight its critical economic problems. The call was made in his report to the General Assembly on the economic situation in Africa.

The report reviews the United Nations five-year Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development, which covered the period from 1986 to 1990, and is prepared for a session of the Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole to take place at Headquarters from 3 to 13 September.

The Secretary-General said in his report that African countries could not be expected to achieve genuine development given a total debt burden which exceeds \$270 billion, the servicing of which was taking over 30 per cent of total exports. He also expressed hope that recent decisions by several creditor countries to write off some of the debts contracted by least developed countries would encourage other creditors to do the same.

The Secretary-General called for a new global compact to help African States revive their economies.

A special study, requested by the Assembly for the Committee's session, calls for the establishment of a fund -- the African Diversification Fund -- to provide technical assistance and financial resources to help reduce the

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chronic dependence of African countries on primary commodities for their foreign exchange.

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The Security Council today decided that its election to fill the vacancy on the International Court of Justice following the death of Judge Taslim Olawale Elias of Nigeria on 14 August, shall take place on 5 December, and at a meeting of the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session.

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The General Assembly yesterday approved the budget of \$49.5 million for the United Nations Angola Verification Mission -- known as UNAVEM II -- to cover its operations in the period, 1 June to 31 December.

The Mission was set up by the Security Council on 30 May to verify peace accords reached on 1 May between the Angolan Government and the opposition forces of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

The Secretary-General had recommended in a report to the Council that the Verification Mission's mandate be enlarged and prolonged in response to the new developments in Angola. He stated that the Mission had successfully fulfilled its original mandate set out by the Council in 1988 -- namely, to verify the redeployment to the north and the staged and total withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, according to a timetable agreed by Angola and Cuba in December 1988.

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The Chairman of the Special Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim Gambari of Nigeria, today in a statement deplored press reports that the German-based Deutsche Bank would be seeking to organize the first public bond issue to South Africa since 1985.

A public bond issue, he said, would signal a return of South Africa to international capital markets, thus reducing the pressure on Pretoria to bring about the end of apartheid through negotiations aimed at the adoption of a new constitution.

The Special Committee against Apartheid considers entirely premature the lifting of financial pressure on South Africa at this stage, and appeals to all States to adhere fully to the Programme of Action contained in the United Nations consensus Declaration, he said.

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